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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SLAM DUNK FOR EDUCATION: ORLANDO MAGIC YOUTH FOUNDATION AWARDS \$25,000 TO SUPPORT KINDERGARTEN READINESS IN OSCEOLA

Kissimmee, FL (Tuesday, August 26, 2025) - The Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County (ELC of Osceola) is honored to have been awarded one of 18 Orlando Magic Youth Foundation grants for the summer cycle. Out of \$1.6 million being distributed to meaningful organizations, \$25,000 will be awarded to ELC of Osceola County for its Transition to Kindergarten Initiative.

The initiative aims to prepare children in Osceola for kindergarten through a community-driven approach. This means investing in early education professionals with professional development and personalized coaching. As for families, the ELC of Osceola will provide more interactive educational events in their communities, while also equipping families with tools and resources to support early literacy and play-based learning at home.

The state's reduced early education budget has greatly impacted the ELC of Osceola. This grant brings hope during a time of uncertainty in education.

"The DeVos family is helping turn vision into reality, and we are deeply grateful," said Amanda Kelkenberg, CEO of the Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County. "We need more key players in our communities to invest in our children and their futures. Investing in children is one of the greatest returns on investment anyone can make."

Thanks to the Orlando Magic, Osceola's youngest learners are set to score big in education.

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The Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County

Established in 1999 through the enactment of Florida Statute 411, the Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County, Inc. (Coalition) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Together with 30 other coalitions across Florida, the Coalition is tasked with the management and funding of early learning programs, utilizing resources from federal, state, and local sources. The Coalition presently provides services to more than 4500 children through its two early learning programs: School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten.